

## CHAPTER XII

THE Rise of Stratigraphical Geology in England. Michell, Whitehurst, William Smith, Thomas Webster, the Geological Society of London, W. H. Fitton. Early teachers and textbooks. Influence of Lyell.

WHILE in France it was the prominence and richly fossiliferous character of the Tertiary strata which first led to the recognition of the value of fossils in stratigraphy, and to the definite establishment of the principles of stratigraphical geology, in England a similar result was reached by a study of the Secondary formations, which are not only more extensively developed there than the younger series, but display more clearly their succession and persistence. But in both countries the lithological sequence, being the more obvious, was first established before it was confirmed and extended by a recognition of the value of the evidence of organic remains.

Early in the eighteenth century Strachey published the succession of formations from the Coal to the Chalk (p. 194). Michell in 1760 gave a clear account of the stratified arrangement of the sedimentary formations, describing their general characters and the persistence of these characters for great distances, and